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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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Date: 16/4/78 By: 023MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

Organized enemy resistance has ended in the Seoul area and strong UN combat patrols are engaged in mopping up remaining pockets of the enemy. UN forces continued their rapid advance from southeastern Korea against light and scattered enemy resistance. US elements are within ten miles of Kusan on the west coast. According to official reports, ROK elements are still 15 miles south of the 38th parallel on the east coast. Increasing numbers of floating mines have been sighted along the coasts, and a second US destroyer has suffered heavy damage from hitting a mine off the east coast just north of the 38th parallel.

Ground

Only scattered and light enemy resistance remains in southern Korea as UN forces continue their rapid deployment throughout the area to cut off and eliminate scattered enemy formations. Organized enemy units in the Seoul area have withdrawn north or have been eliminated in combat, and UN ground units are clearing enemy remnants from the Inchon peninsula north of Kimpo. In southwestern Korea, US troops have entered the rail junction town of Iri and are moving along the road from Iri to the seaport of Kusan. In south and central Korea, UN units are blocking enemy routes of retreat to the north and are reducing scattered enemy pockets of resistance. In the northeast, ROK units have advanced to within 20 miles of the 38th parallel on a road 15 miles inland from the east coast, while other units are within 15 miles of the parallel on the east coast road. Enemy units retreating to the north before the ROK advance appear to be avoiding heavy contact.

Navy

A second US destroyer has been damaged by a floating mine in the Japan Sea just north of the 38th parallel off the Korean east coast. A ROK ship damaged earlier by a mine sank just before reaching her wharf. Increasing numbers of mines are being sighted off the coasts of Korea and are presenting a serious hazard to UN naval operations.

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Air

UN aircraft continued to provide close support for the advancing troops throughout South Korea. Medium bombers struck transport and communication facilities in North Korea.

II. General Situation

No significant developments have been reported in the past 24 hours.

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